

SECTOR Note

Brief on the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and health in the non-ferrous metals industries

The code of practice [*Safety and health in the non-ferrous metals industries*](#) provides workers, employers and governments with global guidelines - based on international labour standards and established best practice - for addressing specific occupational hazards. The code provides guidance on how to safely employ the specific processes used in order to lower the risk for accidents and maintain the health of workers. It reflects the increasingly sophisticated products being produced and the use of an array of chemicals and treatment processes in the smelting, refining and finishing stages.

The 2001 code focuses on foundries and on the production of primary non-ferrous metals, including from recycled material. This includes the separation of complex compound materials, which is growing in importance for economic, environmental and sustainable development reasons.

The code was [developed by a group of experts convened in September 2001](#). Government experts from China, France, Japan, Norway, Peru, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zambia, together with eight experts representing employers' and eight experts representing workers' organizations, took part in the meeting.

The use of the Code of practice has been promoted in tripartite workshops in China, India and Russia. As well as being available in English, French and Spanish, the Code has been translated into Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Polish and Russian